

## TESTIMONY ON SB 90

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,

My name is Wayne Brewster and I live in Helena, Montana. I respectfully submit the following comments. I am a Montana citizen and a life-long hunter, fisherman, and conservationist. In over 50 years of hunting I have neither asked anyone nor paid anyone to care for my game. I shoot game animals to eat. I can also share it with family, friends, neighbors, or give it to those that are in need. "Hunters against Hunger" isn't necessarily a bad idea. However, when the State of Montana requires that I donate to a particular charity in order to get a hunting license, it is wrong. Consequently, I stand today in opposition to Senate Bill 90.

When a hunter takes an animal, they reduce that public animal to private possession. They own it and they are responsible for it. If they don't want to process it themselves, they can hire someone to prepare it for human consumption. If they want, they can eat it, give it away, or donate it. If they don't want it, then they shouldn't shoot it. If they just want to shoot, they can go to the rifle range. If they want to feed the hungry, they should go to the grocery store or send cash. Just don't require me to pay for their supposed charity.

And how will the program be administered? If an animal is brought in that is unfit for human consumption, will they be cited for wanton waste because they did not care for their game? Or, will the processor simply dispose of the carcass and bill the program? Who will audit the yield of meat per carcass or will the processor simply bill the fund on a per animal basis and provide some amount of meat to the program? We all know that folks always get all of their own meat back if they take it to a game processor!

Are the additional funds added to the license part of the license revenue? Does diversion of license revenue to a single charity disqualify the state for federal matching funds for wildlife management? Is it a tax and is it deductible on my tax return? Or is it a charitable donation to be deducted as a donation? If so, how can the state pass a law that I must donate to a certain charity?

The Montana Legislature has many difficult decisions to make. But you don't have to make this one. Don't take a private program that has some merit and try to make it a law that I have to participate in donating to a particular charity in order to get a hunting license. This is just bad legislation.